

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03273 250613Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 /030 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3224
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3273

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP BDIS SY
SUBJ: GENERAL ENGINES V. MINCOMMUNICATIONS

REF: STATE 110020

1. DISCUSSED GENERAL ENGINES CASE WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL,
MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS MUNZER HUMEIDAN. SYRIAN POSITION,
IN SIMPLE TERMS, THAT THEY HAD CONTRACT WITH PENNSYLVANIA
MINING CO FOR DELIVERY TRACTORS, LOWBOYS AND OTHER GOODS FOR
ABOUT 6 MILLION DOLLARS. PMC MADE ONLY PARTIAL DELIVERIES
AND HAS OTHERWISE FAILED TO KEEP CONTRACT. SYRIAN SIDE HAS
ALREADY PAID 1.5 MILLION TO PMC (MCELROY) BUT WILL NOT PAY
THE REST INCLUDING PAYMENT FOR TEN LOWBOYS DELIVERED UNLESS
PMC PUTS UP 300,000 DOLLAR PERFORMANCE BOND OR OTHERWISE
COMPLETES THEIR CONTRACT. PMC HAS PROMISED REPEATEDLY TO PUT
UP PERFORMANCE BOND, MOST RECENTLY BY CABLE DATED 2/28 STATING
BOND WOULD BE SENT TO COMMERCIAL BANK BY 3/10. NO BOND PRODUCED.

2. SHOULD PMC PRODUCE BOND MINCOMMUNICATIONS WILL EXTEND
L/C FOR LOWBOY PAYMENT. MINCOMMUNICATIONS HAS NO CONTRACTUAL
ARRANGEMENT WITH GENERAL ENGINES WHOM THEY REGARD AS ONLY
ANOTHER VICTIM OF MCELROY. THERE IS NO LEGAL BASIS UPON
WHICH MINCOMMUNICATIONS COULD MAKE A PAYMENT TO GENERAL
ENGINES. THEY SUGGEST GENERAL ENGINES TAKE ACTION AGAINST
MCELROY AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS JOINT ACTION WITH
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GENERAL ENGINES IN THIS REGARD.

3. IN SHORT, THERE SEEMS NO POINT IN GENERAL ENGINES REP
COMING TO SYRIA DISCUSS BILATERAL CLAIM AS SYRIAN SIDE DOES
NOT RECOGNIZE ANY SUCH CLAIM EXISTS. IF GENERAL ENGINES
WISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT LEGAL ACTION AGAINST PMC
OR WISHES ASSISTANCE OF SYRIAN GOVERNMENT IN PURSUING CLAIM

AGAINST PMC, MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS STATES WOULD BE HAPPY
TO PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE.
MURPHY

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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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